

JobTrain. She currently serves on numerous boards, including the Center for Excellence in Nonprofits, and East Palo Alto Digital Village. She has also previously served on the boards of the East Palo Alto Senior Center, the Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula, Leadership Mid-Peninsula, and the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board.

After forty years at the helm of JobTrain, it is time for Sharon Williams to bid her beloved nonprofit goodbye and to head off in new directions. The only thing missing from JobTrain's smorgasbord of classes at the moment is a class on how to make eyeglasses. That's not surprising. Sharon sees quite clearly the need for human dignity through productive work. Why would she believe that anyone else in the community needs glasses when her own sight is both perfect and prescient? Let us give Sharon the highest compliment that any employer can offer an employee. Let us say, "Job well done."

RECOGNIZING THE OLALLA COMMUNITY CLUB AND THE OLALLA BLUEGRASS & BEYOND FESTIVAL IN THE SOUTH KITSAP REGION OF WASHINGTON STATE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the Olalla Community Club for their unwavering support of the Olalla community through the continuation of the Olalla Bluegrass & Beyond Festival into its 22nd year.

In 1906, the Olalla Hall was built to foster community involvement. It was deeded to the Olalla Community Club in 1937 and served the community for 45 years as a site for socials, dances, and meetings. Unfortunately, the hall closed in the 1980's due to disuse and disrepair.

The Olalla Community Club was called to action in 1992 in response to the struggle to save the Banner Forest from residential development. As a result of that victory, the small force of the Olalla Community Club continued its tireless work in an effort to reinvigorate the community by restoring its local hall. The establishment of the Olalla Bluegrass & Beyond Festival in 1992 helped attain this goal. Today, all proceeds from the festival go right back into the Olalla community. This helps to maintain the 107-year old Olalla community hall. Also, the festival supports music programs at South Kitsap and Peninsula High Schools, the Little League, local PTA, two food banks and other local service organizations in the region.

The word "Olalla," derived from the native Chinook word "olallie," loosely translates to "the place with many berries." The community celebrates its roots by hosting the legendary berry pie contest alongside family entertainment, such as local and national bluegrass, folk music, and handmade crafts for all festivalgoers to enjoy. I can say with firsthand knowledge that this is a terrific—and tasty—tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by again applauding the dedication of the Olalla Community Club in their effort to preserve and further enrich the community of Olalla. I am

pleased to recognize the work of community members for their ongoing support of the Olalla Bluegrass & Beyond Festival today in the United States Congress.

HONORING JOE'S STONE CRAB'S 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE GARCIA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a legendary eatery serving the people of South Florida and beyond.

For over 100 years, Joe's Stone Crab has been a prominent institution honored for its unparalleled customer service and quality food. Started by Joseph Weiss in 1913, Joe's Stone Crab was one of the first eating establishments on Collins Avenue in Miami Beach. Over the years, Joe's has hosted a list of the "who's who" of the world including celebrities, politicians, and the like.

The love of food, friends, and family has brought a countless number of people together, making this restaurant a "must" on the list of places to visit in Miami. Joe's Stone Crab is the epitome of top notch restaurant service and food, and is undoubtedly one of our community's most revered culinary institutions.

RECOGNIZING THE UNBREAKABLE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in unwavering support of our nation's great friend and ally, the State of Israel. On July 31, 2013, I voted in favor of H.R. 850, the Nuclear Iran Prevention Act of 2013, which overwhelmingly passed in the House of Representatives by a vote of 400–20. I would like to take this opportunity to commend my colleagues, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman ED ROYCE and Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, for introducing this important legislation, of which I am a proud co-sponsor. The bill targets human rights violators while increasing effective sanctions to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

For more than half a century, the United States and Israel have shared the common bonds of democracy, economic vitality, and cultural affinity. These ties remain as strong today as when President Harry Truman first recognized the creation of a Jewish State in 1948. From religious kinships to shared interests, and from military strengths to commercial relations, the enduring friendship between the United States and Israel is unbreakable.

However, Israel continues to face serious regional threats, concerns which are also shared by the United States. A nuclear-armed Iran represents a direct threat to Israel's existence, the stability of the region, and the security of the entire global community. That is why we must stand firmly with Israel in the struggle against the Iranian regime's ongoing pursuit of

nuclear weapons and support for terrorism. Its peace-threatening actions and statements should be taken seriously, and the international community has a responsibility to act.

I have long supported sanctions efforts in Congress, and will continue to do so as long as Iran insists on pursuing its dangerous course of action. Together with the international community, we must increase the pressure on Iran's authoritarian government to give up its nuclear ambitions. Existing United States and European Union measures have already reduced Iran's oil exports by more than half from pre-sanction levels of about 2.2 million barrels per day, bpd. This new round of sanctions cuts that number to near zero within a year, further crippling Tehran's ability to fund its nuclear program.

The United States must work with Iran's neighbors and our allies to hold a hard line against the acquisition of these dangerous, destabilizing weapons. At the same time, we must continue to support the Iranian people's efforts to reform their government to respect the rights of all citizens. Finally, it is essential that the United States remain supportive of Israel's absolute right to defend itself and protect its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable. It is my sincere hope that one day all people in the region can live with dignity and freedom in peace. Iran's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons threatens that future.

RECOGNIZING DR. KENNETH MOSSMAN

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Dr. Kenneth L. Mossman for nomination to membership of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

Dr. Mossman has served for 23 years as Professor of Health Physics at Arizona State University and is internationally renowned as an expert in the field of ionizing radiation exposure. He has served in an advisory capacity to the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Research Council of the National Academies, the Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris, and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna. Dr. Mossman presently serves as an Administrative Judge for the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board provides a uniquely valuable service to the American people as an independent watchdog over the safety consequences of developments in the Department of Energy's defense nuclear facilities. I can think of no better candidate than Dr. Mossman to advise our nation's leaders of contingencies to protect public health and safety. I am proud that Dr. Mossman represents my alma mater and my district at the highest level of competence and governance in his field.

I have no doubt that Dr. Mossman will faithfully serve the public interest in his role as member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and I ask my colleagues to join

me in recognizing his dedication and accomplishment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 435, I was unavoidably detained at a personal doctor's appointment.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast rollcall votes on May 23rd. Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes:

On rollcall 180, I would have voted "no;" on rollcall 181, I would have voted "no;" on rollcall 182, I would have voted "yes;" on rollcall 183, I would have voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO ALBA PEREZ

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Alba Perez for being named a 2013 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Each year, Business Record undertakes an exhaustive review to identify a standout group of women in the Greater Des Moines area who, as the publication notes, "have made a difference." An impressive group of inspiring female leaders are selected annually for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement, career success, and being a role model for other women to emulate. The 2013 Women of Influence honorees join an impressive roster of more than 130 women who have changed and are continuing to change our communities for the better.

In her work, Alba Perez, presently the Executive Officer of the Office of Latino Affairs at the Iowa Department of Human Rights, has been inspired by advice she received as a child from her mother: "Leave things better than how you found them." Ms. Perez has spent much of her career trying to help Latinos and other underrepresented communities, advocating for what she calls meaningful inclusion or helping Latina women who struggle with English. In her 12 years at the Greater Des Moines Partnership, she managed the diversity committee tasked with helping make Des Moines a more inclusive community. She also has helped launch Alianza: Latino Business Association, and the dance instruction organization now known as Salsa Des Moines. Ms. Perez has been heavily in-

involved in the League of United Latin American Citizens of Iowa, and the Latina Leadership Initiative of Greater Des Moines.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Alba Perez in the United States Congress, and I am pleased to recognize her for working to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Women of Influence class continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 428, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting off the Hill at the White House with the President.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

STOP GOVERNMENT ABUSE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, here we go again. It's become a ritual with the House Republican Leadership to devote the dying hours of the legislative calendar to the task of beating up on federal employees.

You'll remember that the last time we found ourselves in this position was on January 1, 2013. As the clock ticked down the minutes closing the 112th Congress, instead of addressing the host of pressing financial matters that threatened the fiscal health of this nation, my Republican colleagues chose to focus those precious minutes on legislation to clawback the meager .5% COLA promised to federal employees when the Continuing Resolution expired in March of that year.

As this country faced a wave of serious economic difficulties, instead of spending the time focusing on legislation to address these challenges, Republicans in Congress turned their attention to squeezing even more out of the hard working federal employees who had already contributed \$60 billion of their pay as part of a two-year pay freeze. By no fault of their own, our dedicated federal workers have become pawns in a ritualistic game fashioned to distract the American public from the real challenges confronting our country.

This week, this body considers a number of bills that again scapegoat federal employees. I rise today to ask my colleagues not to fall for this game again and to reject this gratuitous and disrespectful attack on our federal workers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing H.R. 2879, the Stop Government Abuse Act because the bill eliminates due process protections for members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) by allowing agency heads to

fire SES employees without giving them advance notice or an opportunity to address the allegations against them. The bill would place the burden of proof on SES employees by requiring them to prove their innocence when seeking reinstatement. Democrats on the House Committee on Oversight tried to amend the bill to preserve existing due process protections for these employees, but their efforts were rejected.

Further, the bill would limit bonuses federal workers may receive to 5% of basic pay during sequestration and limit the number of Senior Executives who may receive performance awards to 33% of those eligible in each agency. If passed, this bill could further harm our government's ability to attract the best and the brightest managers, make it more difficult to retain current employees and exacerbate personnel shortages in nursing, information technology, cybersecurity, and acquisition where shortages have been a major concern for some time.

Federal employees dedicate their lives to the service of our nation. They protect our borders, care for our wounded service members and work to discover treatments and cures for diseases that touch virtually every American family. With their diligence and unwavering devotion, they have earned the right to be treated with respect and they do not deserve to be the target of arbitrary attacks seemingly just to fill space on the legislative calendar.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK, 2013

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize National Health Center Week, celebrating the more than 1,200 health centers providing vital health care for 22 million individuals at more than 9,000 locations across the country. During the week of August 11–17th, celebrations of National Health Center Week will be taking place at West County Health Centers and Petaluma Health Center in my Congressional district.

America's community health centers are the core of our health care system and the nation's social safety net, delivering high quality, cost-effective, and accessible primary and preventative care to individuals regardless of their ability to pay. Health centers are located in medically underserved areas and controlled locally by patient-majority boards, making each health center responsive to the needs of the individual community it serves.

From the Marin Community Clinic to Crescent City Health Care Center, California's Second Congressional District, which I am honored to represent, is served by a network of vibrant community health centers offering patient-focused, coordinated healthcare that families and individuals need.

National Health Center Week offers us the opportunity to recognize all those responsible for the continued success and growth of community health centers nationwide. Since this program's inception 50 years ago, health centers have served those in need with comprehensive, high quality, cost effective, and accessible health care, and I am grateful for their role in the North Coast community.